



News from the Cultural Resources Management,
Tribal Liaison Office, & Environmental Programs of the
Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs,
Alaska Army National Guard

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Greetings,

This winter continues to be challenging. High winds and sub-zero temperatures continue to be as common as the sighting of a rear-wheel drive sedan in the ditch on the side of the Glenn Highway on the morning commute outside of Anchorage. The word in the cosmos is that the sun is entering the stage in its 11-year cycle when sunspots and solar flares occur much more frequently than usual. This solar activity may influence the El Niño cycle, resulting in warmer ocean temperatures. But for us, the increased solar flare activity certainly means more frequent and more intense northern light activity. And just to make sure that we will all have a very lucky year in 2012, this is the Chinese Year of the Dragon, the luckiest of all years in the Chinese zodiac. May the northern lights dance with delight over all of us this winter. And maybe we will be lucky enough to enjoy watching the spirits playing ball games with a walrus skull in the sky.

A Ketchikan Alaskan Japanese American Army National Guard Soldier in WWII: Pat Harigawa

The history of Alaska's involvement in World War II is amazing. At the very same time that Japanese forces were holding U.S. territory at the farthest west point in Alaska at Attu, the Americans were holding Japanese-American citizens in confinement in the farthest southeast part of Alaska on Annette Island. But that didn't stop young Alaskan-born men that just happened to have Japanese ancestry from joining the Army and the National Guard. Pat Harigawa was one of those Japanese-Alaskans that fought in WWII. Here is an excerpt from the book by C.A. Salisbury called *Soldiers in the Mist* that talks about that.

"The Alaska National Guard had several second generation Japanese-Americans within its ranks. Because they were first of all Americans, then Alaskans and then soldiers, they earned a very special place in the history of the National Guard. Pat Hagiwara's parents owned the Alaska Home Bakery in Ketchikan. Pat's father was reluctant at first to let his son join, but he had always stressed to his sons that they should do their part for their country, so Pat became Guardsman. By the time the



Juneau unit was called to federal service in 1941, he had become the company Drill Sergeant.

“While the company was still drilling in Ketchikan, an Immigration Officer stopped Pat one day and said, “If there is a war with Japan, who will you fight for?”

“I was so naïve.” said Pat, “that I thought – what a stupid question. I am an American soldier, I’ll do my duty. Early in 1942, Captain VanGilder learned that his Japanese Guardsmen were being shipped out. The ship stopped briefly in Ketchikan where the Guardsmen went ashore to check on their families. The fathers were being held in confinement on Annette Island and Pat Harigawa managed to see his father before going on to Fort Lewis, Washington.

“In December of 1943 Pat was reassigned to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, as a drill sergeant. Here he joined a new replacement unit of Japanese-American soldiers who would become members of an elite force. The 442nd Regimental Combat team would become America’s most decorated organization during World War Two. The 100th Battalion of the 442nd had already fought its way through North Africa, Salerno, and the battle for the Abbey of Monte Casino before Pat arrived in Italy. The 100th was the famed Purple Heart Battalion. Pat’s brother Mike was wounded at Hill 140 in Italy on July 4, 1943. The 442nd was a close-knit organization. So many brothers, uncles, and cousins served in the organization that when the outfit was pulled out of the lines, survivors would look up relatives in the rest areas to see if they were still alive.

“Pat went into combat on June 26, 1944. He asked a 442nd veteran, “How accurate is German firepower?” He was told, “You open up your back pocket and the Germans will put a mortar shell in it.” He would end his war on the French-Italian border. From the basketball court of Ketchikan high School through the fighting in Italy was quite a stretch of the legs for the young Ketchikan soldier.”

Current U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, great friend of the late U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, also fought with the 442nd Regimental Combat team. The young Dan Inouye left his right arm behind in Italy in the field of battle. Pat Hagiwara made it back to the U.S., and worked for 36 years with Boeing in Seattle before passing away in 2010.

The photograph of Pat Harigawa was taken in France in 1944 by a friend of Pat’s.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Employee: Don Fluornoy



The new Environmental Condition of Property (ECOP) specialist is Don Fluornoy. Don joined the DMVA FMO on the 1st of November, 2011. He hails from Texas and grew up in the panhandle of west Texas. Don is transitioning from the Air Force where he recently served for 24 years before retiring. He served as a Weapons Systems Technician and worked on numerous aircraft including the F-16, A-10, F-15 and F-22 airframes. Don has been stationed and served throughout the world. He was first indoctrinated to the wilds of Alaska in October of 1999 when he was assigned to Eielson AFB near Fairbanks. Once he spent his first summer in Alaska he was hooked and knew that he wanted to retire and live in Alaska following his military service. In his spare time, Don loves to spend time in the outdoors

and his favorite activity is floating his cataraft down the Kenai River. He looks forward to seeing other parts of Alaska and meeting with new people throughout the state.

Armory Spotlight: Hooper Bay

There are three buildings at the Hooper Bay Federal Scout Readiness Center, a village with about 1,200 residents. The oldest of these is a prefabricated, metal frame building built in 1960 and measuring 20 by 60 feet. The building's siding is grey corrugated aluminum. The second building is a prefabricated, steel frame structure constructed in 1984 and measuring 30 by 40 feet. The building is sided with flat metal sheets painted green. These first two buildings are connected by an enclosed walkway. The third building is a prefabricated, steel frame structure constructed in 1992 and measuring 30 by 50 feet. The metal siding on this last building is painted tan with a dark green metal roof. This building is connected to the previous one by an open steel grate and wooden steps.



Alaska National Guard gives nearly 2,500 gallons of heating fuel to the Native Village of Tununak

Several members of the Alaska Army National Guard spent the week of January 23, 2012 in Tununak transferring heating fuel from storage tanks at the guard armory to the Native Village of Tununak. Approximately 350 people live in Tununak, a village situated on the shores of Bering Sea 100 miles west of Bethel. Like so many villages, Tununak was hit hard by the massive storm that ravaged the west coast of Alaska in late 2011. "It has been an especially cold and rough winter", said Xavier Post, Administrative Assistant for the Native Village of Tununak. "Everyone here has been using more fuel than usual".

Herbert "Gil" Guillory, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Environmental Program Manager, and Master Sergeant Michael Haltom, Alaska National Guard Facilities Operations Manager worked with the United States Defense Logistics Agency to process the federally-owned surplus heating oil, making it available free of charge to the Native Village of Tununak, a federally-recognized tribe.

Three of Mr. Guillory's staff travelled from their office in Camp Carroll at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson in Anchorage, to Bethel to pick up 52 semi-clear plastic barrels, each with a maximum capacity of 55 gallons. The team consisted of Tim Roy the Environmental Compliance Program Supervisor, Mark Hamilton the Water Resource Program Manager, and Tom Wolforth the Cultural Resource Manager and Tribal Liaison, with the support of Garis Kinegak, Maintenance Specialist at the Bethel Armory.



They then headed to the armory in Tununak, and were soon pumping fuel out of the pair of 1,500 gallon storage tanks into the barrels. The temperature started out at a high of minus 5 below zero, and it got colder by 5 degrees each day. The cold weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the recipients of the fuel, however.

Theodore Angaiak, President of the Native Village of Tununak, took possession of each barrel as it was filled, and distributed them to villagers that were in particular need of fuel. Folks pulled up to the armory and hauled away a barrel with their snow

machines and ATVs. A few hardy individuals even towed away a full barrel on foot. In addition to receiving the fuel, each recipient will be keeping the sturdy and reusable barrels.

For a few short and very cold winter days, the center of the village of Tununak was bustling with activity. People in the village really came together to make this happen. The folks at the nearby Tununmiut Rinit Corporation store kept the team fueled up with hot coffee. It was great to see the fuel going directly into the hands of those that can use it the most.

Bits of History in Alaska

History happens all the time. The Alaska Historical Society reminds us of some of the things that have happened around Alaska at their website: <http://www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org/index.cfm/discover-alaska/This-Month-in-Alaska-History/33>. Here are a few that took place during winters past:

March 27, 1964 - At 5:36 pm the Good Friday earthquake, which registered 9.2 on the Richter scale, rocked southcentral Alaska. The quake released approximately twice the energy of the 1906 San Francisco quake. It killed 115 people in Alaska and more than a dozen others in California and Oregon

April 12, 1794 - Captain George Vancouver and his ships entered Cook Inlet and discovered it was not a river.

May 31, 1977 - The final weld was completed on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

Communication Links

What are your preferred methods of contact?

☐ Letter

☐ Fax

☐ Email

☐ Telephone

Offices

Mailing address

Primary email

Phone number(s)

Fax number

Do you have other staff that you would like us to include in our consultation for environmental and cultural issues?

Office	Name and contact information
Tribal Administrator	
Environmental Coordinator	
Realty	
Elders Office	
Other	

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